



Bureau of Land Management

Moab Division of Fire Management

Price Field Office, Moab Field Office, Monticello Field Office

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Big Canyon Fire Burn Out Operations Successful



Emery County, Utah... ...Burn-out operations were conducted with limited success on Sunday, August 29. Fire managers hoped to conduct the operation late last week but weather conditions were not ideal until Sunday.

The fire had grown from 900 acres on last Thursday to 1300 acres by Sunday morning. After burn-out operations the fire grew to approximately 3000 acres. The burn-out was conducted to keep the fire from moving west into the Range Creek area.

The burn-out operations were conducted from a helicopter using a "ping-pong ball" machine. The "ping-pong" machine is an aerial ignition device that dispenses something resembling a flammable ping-pong ball. It's known in the fire business as a P.S.D. or Plastic-Sphere Dispenser. This type of ignition technique and equipment are ideal in steep rugged terrain, where it can be too dangerous for personnel to hand-ignite the burn-out fires.



Sundays operations were supported by; an Erickson Sky Crane, which conducted snorkel operations and water drops, two type three (medium) helicopters, one for conducting the burn out

and the other for bucket work, two “Heavy” wildland fire engines, two “Light” engines, a water-tender and a small group of “overhead” fire managers. Additional air support included; Lead-49 a fixed wing plane, air-tanker 25 and air-attack 1SA with Gil Dustin.

Additional resources have been ordered to the fire today. Those resources include; the Bonneville Hot Shot crew, the Snake River Hot Shot crew and the Twin Peaks Initial Attack crew. By the end of today personnel on the fire will total 100 people. With no moisture in the near future, BLM officials elected to bring in Merrill Saleens Type 2 Incident Management Team.

This fire was originally started by fire on August 7th by lightning. BLM fire management monitored this fire by plane for the first week and a half due to limited access, extremely rugged terrain and concerns for firefighter safety. Approximately two days ago the fire increased significantly in size and finally reached a point was fire personnel could safely access the fire.

For additional fire information go to website www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Remember only you can prevent wildfires.
Do your part. Don’t start wildfires.